

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): A lock removal tool, comprising:

an elongated bar having a first end and a second end positioned along a vertical reference axis;

a lock cutting tool disposed on the first end of said bar, the lock cutting tool being a generally rectangular, flat plate having axially aligned leading and trailing edges and top and bottom surfaces, said bar being joined to the lock cutting tool generally centered on said top surface between the leading and trailing edges, ~~said bar being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the~~ of said lock cutting tool which forms an angle to the said vertical reference axis;

a removable tool piece extending from the second end of said bar axially aligned with said bar;

a first impact collar disposed on said bar near the first end and substantially near said trailing edge of said lock cutting tool, so as to form a space between said first impact collar and said trailing edge of said lock cutting tool to accommodate a metal bar;

a second impact collar disposed on said bar near the second end; and

a weight slidably disposed on said bar between the first and the second impact collars.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said tool piece comprises a length of metal stock.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said metal stock is square.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said metal stock is tapered to define a blade.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein the second end of said bar has a tool piece receptacle defined therein and a threaded set screw aperture formed through the bar and extending into the receptacle, the lock removal tool further comprising a set screw engaging the set screw aperture, whereby said tool piece is removably retained within said tool piece receptacle by said set screw.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein the leading edge of said lock cutting tool is bifurcated to form a cutting slot, the cutting slot being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said top surface of said lock cutting tool is tapered along the leading edge.

Claim 22 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein the leading edge of said lock cutting tool is bifurcated to form a cutting slot, the cutting slot being a generally "V" shaped slot having inner edges, the top surface of said cutting tool being tapered along the inner edges of said cutting slot.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein the top surface of said lock cutting tool is tapered along the trailing edge.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein the bottom surface of said cutting tool is curved at the leading edge.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said cutting tool has at least one groove formed in the top surface, the at least one groove extending transversely across the top surface.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said cutting tool has at least one groove formed in the bottom surface, the at least one groove extending transversely across the bottom surface.

Claim 27 (currently amended): The lock removal tool according to Claim 15, wherein said trailing edge of bar and said lock cutting tool forms an angle to said vertical reference axis ~~are joined at an angle~~ of between 15° and 45°.

Claim 28 (currently amended): A method for removing a lock in combination with a lock cutting tool, said lock removal tool comprising:

an elongated bar having a first end and a second end positioned along a vertical reference axis;

a lock cutting tool disposed on the first end of said bar, the lock cutting tool being a generally rectangular, flat plate having axially aligned leading and trailing edges and top and bottom surfaces, said bar being joined to the lock cutting tool generally centered on said top surface between the leading and trailing edges, ~~said bar being angled away from the top surface and extending rearward from the~~ of said lock cutting tool which forms an angle to said vertical reference axis;

a removable tool piece extending from the second end of said bar axially aligned with said bar;

a first impact collar disposed on said bar near the first end and substantially near said trailing edge of said lock cutting tool, so as to form a space between said first impact collar and said trailing edge of said lock cutting tool to accommodate a metal bar;

a second impact collar disposed on said bar near the second end; and

a weight slidably disposed on said bar between the first and the second impact collars.